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BABY BIRTH

BABY BIRTH

Volume 2

by
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&
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BABY BIRTH VOLUME 2

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THE STORY THUS FAR

An ancient seal has been broken, sending a flood of demons--known as the Suspicion--into the mortal realm. Hizuru Oborozuki is a student figure skater who doesn't care enough about anything to excel. Takuya Hijou is a musical super-genius whose talent is only matched by his ego. Imbued with the power of Mistress Teos--the goddess who originally imprisoned the demons ages ago--Hizuru, Takuya, and the enigmatic Rhythm form a team that's more interested in fighting each other than the Suspicion. Takuya can use his music to trigger Hizuru's transformation from "loser-girl" to supernatural warrior. Together, they are Earth's last line of defense against total demonic domination.

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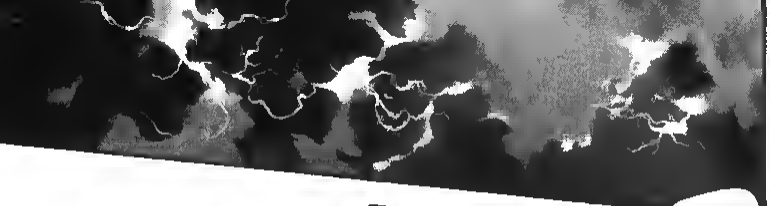
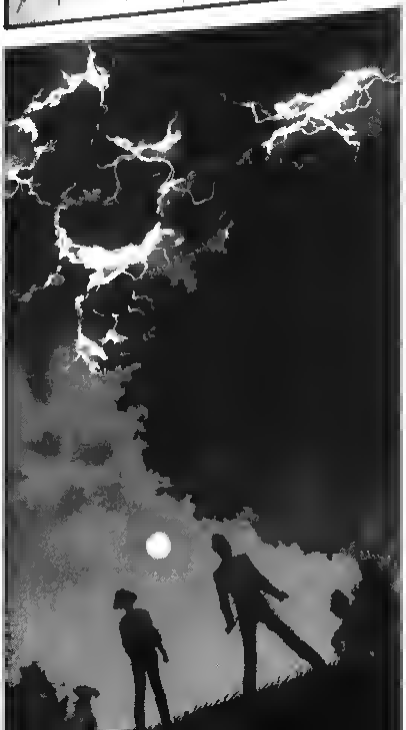




ACT.11 Disaster

I DON'T WANT GIFTS. I SHOULDN'T GET THEM, NOT FROM YOU
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS
YOU AND I ARE NOT GOING TO WORK OUT
B-BUT IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY—
YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?
?!
I'M ENGAGED...
...TO THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR'S DAUGHTER.

IT'S NOT LIKE I PROMISED YOU WE'D GET MARRIED OR ANYTHING
CUT THE DRAMA, MINAMIDA

A Divine Treasure awakens when a person is exposed to a massive surge of emotion, pl!
OKAYYYYY... SO WHERE DO I LOOK FOR THIS TREASURE?!
.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CLOSE BY"?!
A Divine Treasure!
It's so pure-- not like what you think of treasure. It's going to awaken and it's close by too, pl!!
.....
It's not fully awakened yet, chirp
How should I know, cheep?
I'll go look for
You try and convince Hizuru to help us, pl.

HER LIFE WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY DRAINED AWAY JUST BY COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THAT CREATURE, THE SUSPICION
BUT DON'T WORRY I THINK SHE'LL BE BACK TO HER OLD SELF WITHIN A FEW DAYS
THIS IS MY FAULT.
I GOT HER INVOLVED IN THIS
SHE WOULD HAVE DIED IF YOU HADN'T SAVED HER. DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP
SAVE THAT FOR THE BAD GUYS!
REALLY? YOU MEAN IT?

BUT COULDN'T EVEN MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE GET HURT IF I KEEP FIGHTING THESE THINGS?
AND WHY ME? HOW CAN ONE PERSON MAKE A DIFFERENCE AGAINST THOSE MONSTERS ANYWAY?
HOW--?
SLAM
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT TOYOETSU WAS SUCH A SNEAKY LITTLE BASTARD
SNAGGING THE DIRECTOR'S DAUGHTER THE WAY HE DID!!
I KNOW, I KNOW THAT PIG
LOOK, HIZURU--

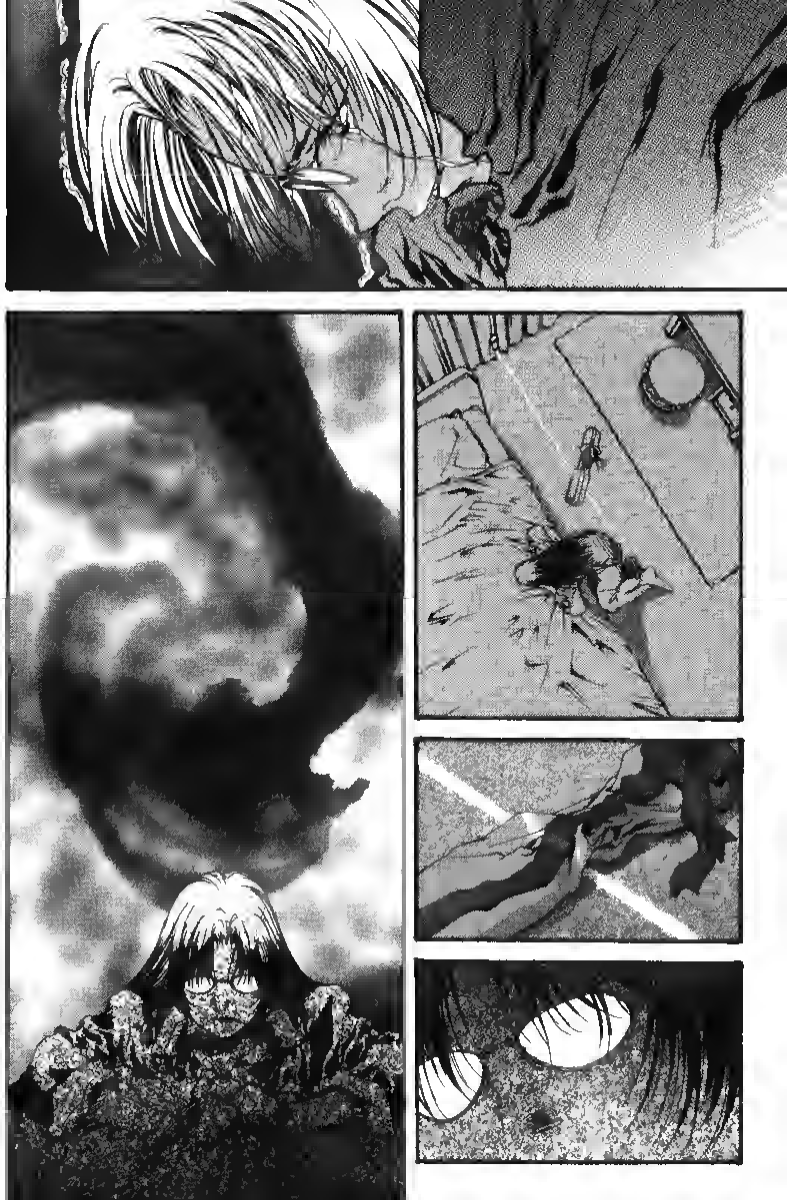
?!
?
I HAVE TO GO FIND COACH MINAMIDA
I...
SHE WAS ACTING WEIRD BACK IN THE ROOM.
DOCTOR TOYOETSU STABBED HER IN THE BACK
SHE MUST BE FEELING AWFUL LONELY RIGHT NOW

LET GO! SHE NEEDS ME!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHEN A DIVINE TREASURE'S RIGHT WITHIN OUR GRASP?!
THE COACH MEANS MORE TO ME THAN SOME STUPID TREASURE!
STOP RUNNING AWAY!
YOU'RE MAKING EXCUSES. USING YOUR FRIEND'S PROBLEMS TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR OWN!

YOU'RE THE GENIUS, NOT ME!! WHY DON'T YOU GO DO YOUR MAGIC THING AND REVIVE THAT DUMB REVERIE YOURSELF?!
YEAH, IF ONLY I COULD DO IT MYSELF. THAT WOULD MAKE THINGS SO MUCH EASIER, YOU SILLY LITTLE IDIOT.

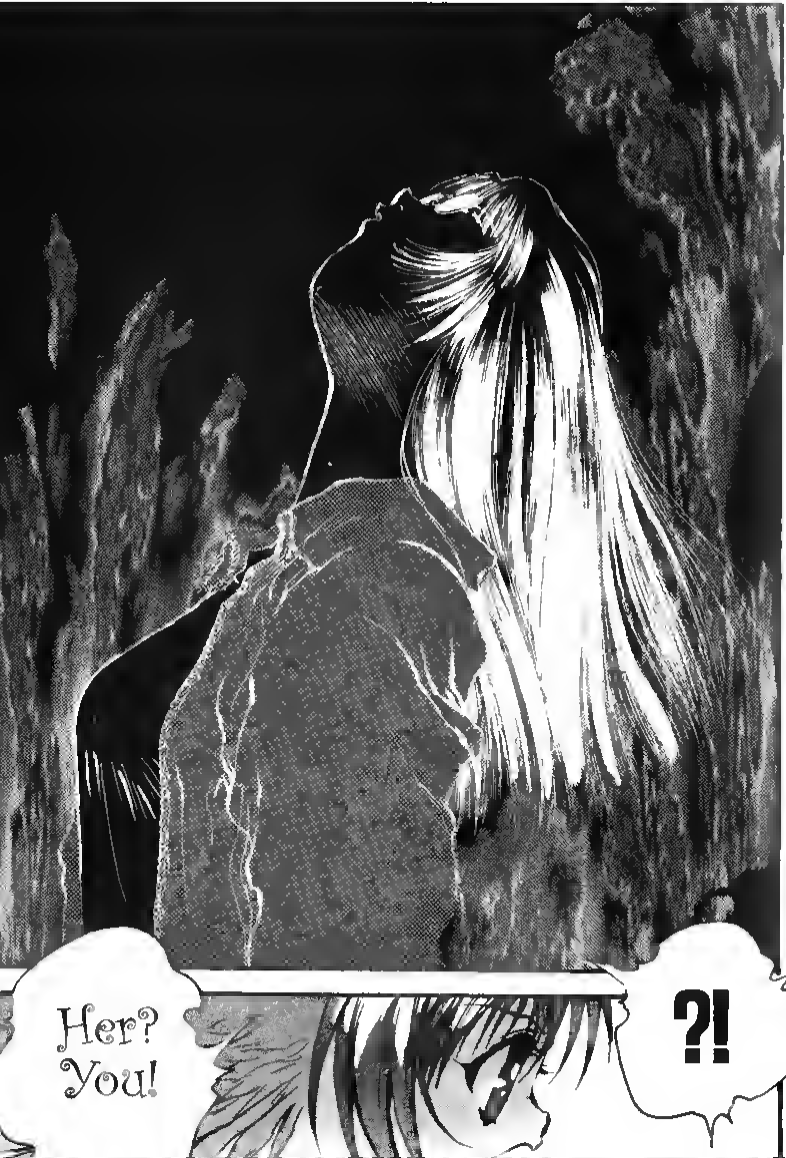
I NEVER WANTED A PARTNER EITHER.

I HATE SMILING. I'M TIRED OF SMILING ALL THE TIME.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP LYING TO YOURSELF.
SHUT UP. YOU HAVE TO KEEP PRETENDING.
OTHERWISE, YOU'RE NOTHING... JUST A STUPID SAD GIRL WITH NO TALENT OR SKILL.
UNLESS...
YOU'D RUN AWAY FROM YOURSELF TOO, TAKUYA, IF YOU WERE ME



I've found the surge -it's coming from that building, pi!
Those are...
...Ruid's monsters, pi!
It's them!!
POP

HATE HIM. HE LEFT YOU, DIDN'T HE?
CURSE HIM. CURSE EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD!!


Her?
You!
?!

WHEN THE HEART OF THE GUARDIAN IS SHATTERED, THEN THE LIGHT OF THE DIVINE TREASURE...
...SHALL ESCAPE!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I PROMISED YOU WE'D GET MARRIED OR ANYTHING

ACT.11 Disaster END

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Demons On The Verge Of A Vicious Breakout!
The monstrous Suspicion draws ever closer to ending its ages-long banishment. However, since Hizuru's best friend was injured during the last battle with the demons, the guilt-ridden young mystical warrior is reluctant to fight the Suspicion again. Taking advantage of their adversary's indecision, the demons are using someone very close to Hizuru to destroy the world's only hope...and then the world itself!

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TEEN
AGE 13+

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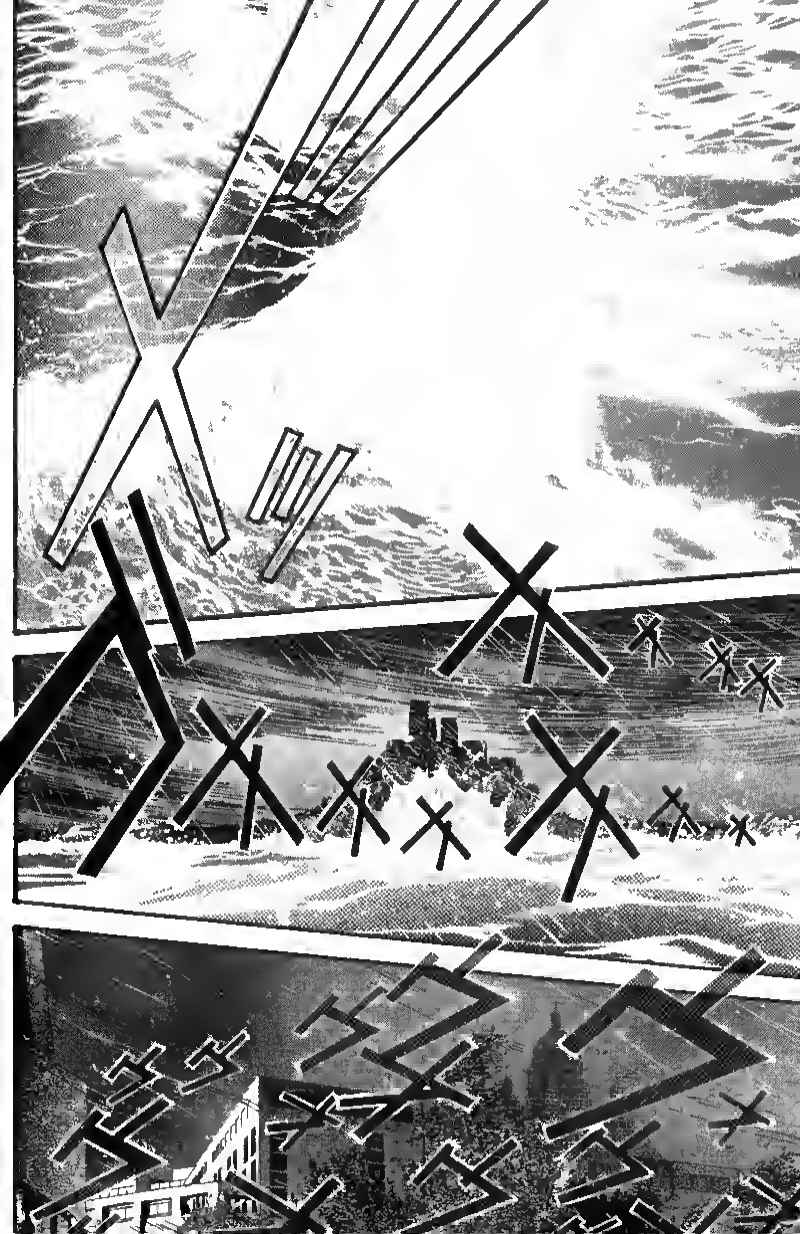
ACT.12 Hatred

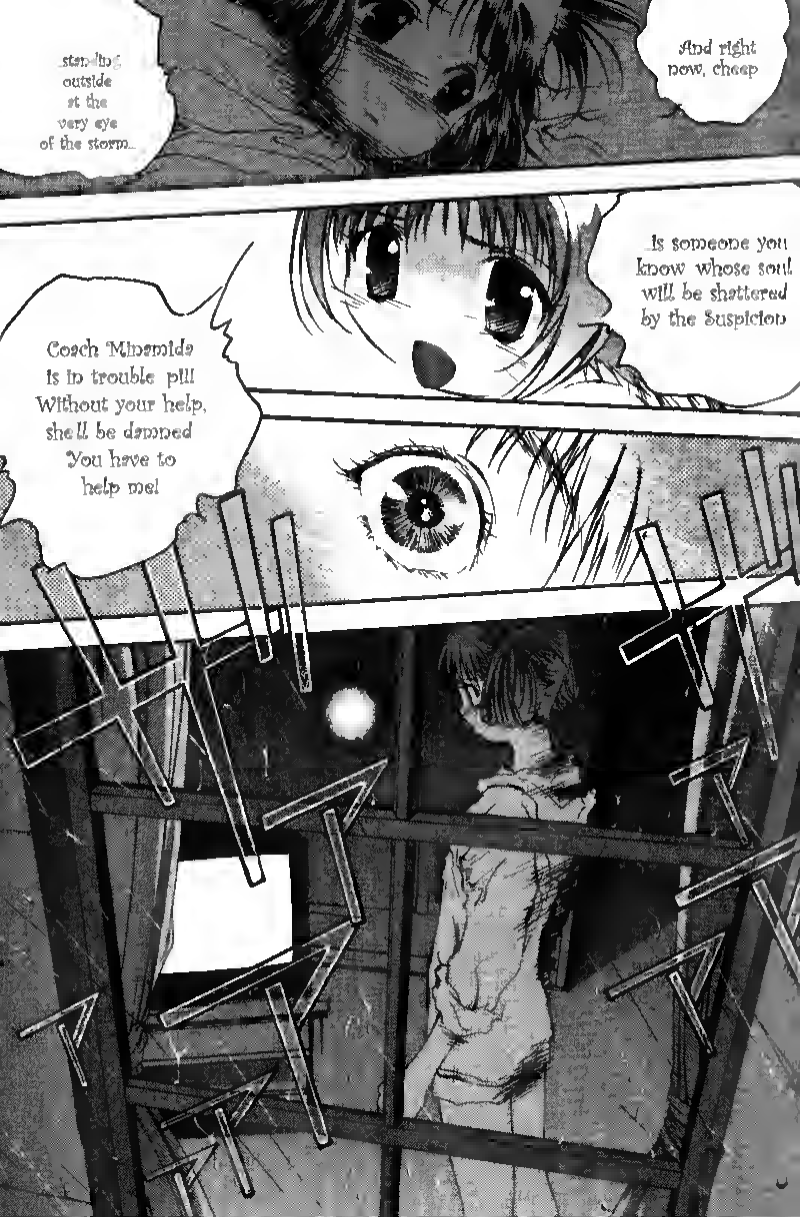
Yesss!! It's coming- The Divine Treasure will emerge from this woman's body in moments...
...and I'll be here to destroy it!!
...SHALL ESCAPE!!
WHEN THE HEART OF THE GUARDIAN IS SHATTERED, THEN THE LIGHT OF THE DIVINE TREASURE...



Why are you still here, cheep?!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! BUTT OUT!
You have to help me, chirp!!
But the Divine Treasures fully awakened now pi! You have to come quickly, pi!
What?!

NO!

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NOT EVER, NO!!
I SAID "NO" AND I MEAN IT!!
?!
Do you know what's going on out there p!? Look!
I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE OR MORPH OR MUTATE OR WHATEVER!
Don't say that, chirp!!
The water line is rising at an unprecedented pace and...
Due to the sudden, violent storms, we expect severe flooding in the hours ahead.
The Divine Treasure is being manipulated by another kind of emotional surge! An EVIL one!!
Don't you see? This is unnatural. It's a sign that something terrible is going to happen


standing outside at the very eye of the storm...
And right now, cheap
Is someone you know whose soul will be shattered by the Suspicion
Coach Minamida is in trouble, pll! Without your help, she'll be damned. You have to help me!

All students are urged to take immediate refuge within the school buildings!
Due to the storm, all classes have been cancelled.
We repeat, due to the severity of the storm...
SURE, YOU ALL GO AND HIDE
A PERFECT STORM IS JUST WHERE I'LL FIND
...THE PERFECT PHOTO OP!

I NEED AN INSTRUMENT TO PLAY THE DIVINE MELODY TO TRANSFORM YOU, REMEMBER?!
HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?!
WERE YOU SINGING KUMBAYA BEFORE THE RAIN PUT OUT YOUR CAMPFIRE?
HEY, NICE UMBRELLA, HIPPIE
ARE YOU CRAZY? THIS IS OUT OF CONTROL.
WELL, I'M NOT DOING THAT-- IT'S WAY TOO EMBARRASSING
I'LL HELP SOME OTHER WAY
HEY!

COACH?!
COACH?!
?

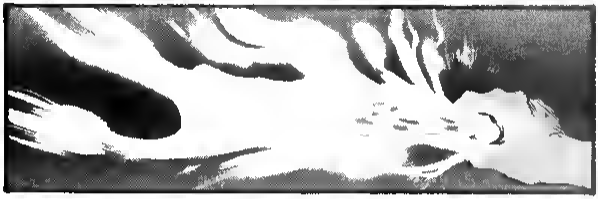
Kiiiiiiiii.
GO AFTER HER!!
O-OKAY!

COACH!
WHERE ARE YOU?
?!
IT'S--IT'S CALLING ME
THE DIVINE TREASURE

A TERRIBLE SADNESS. UTTER HOPELESS-NESS
I FEEL IT ALL THE EMOTIONS I SENSE PAINFUL BETRAYAL
HIZURU ?
TOYOETSU.

OH, IT'S YOU
WHO'S THERE?
WE HAD OUR FUN, NOW IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
STOP CRYING, WE'RE BOTH ADULTS HERE.
...YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS! LEAVE ME ALONE. WHATEVER WE HAD OR DIDN'T HAVE IS GONE! IT'S OVER.
AND TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST...
URRRRR GGHHH HHHHH...
URR GG HH HH....

?!
OHHHH HHHHH GGHH HHH!!



KILL HIM!!

HI HIHI HIHI HIIII!

SEE THE GIRL... AND KILL HER!
THAT'S RIGHT... SEE THE MAN... AND KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!!

KILL THEM ALL!!
KILL EVERYONE WHO HAS BETRAYED YOU. KILL THOSE YOU THINK MIGHT HURT YOU IF GIVEN THE CHANCE!
KIIIIIII!!

ACT.12 Hatred END

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ACT.13 Bond

!!
SPLISH
Hizuru!!
COACH— I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FEELING I KNOW

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FEEL, YOU LITTLE BRAT!!

!!
Takuya play the Divine Melody pl!
Play it! You have to create a Divine Surge now!!

The Divine Treasure and Hizuru's Emblem are resonating, pl!

GRIP

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MY SISTER
THIS... HEAT...
オ オレオ

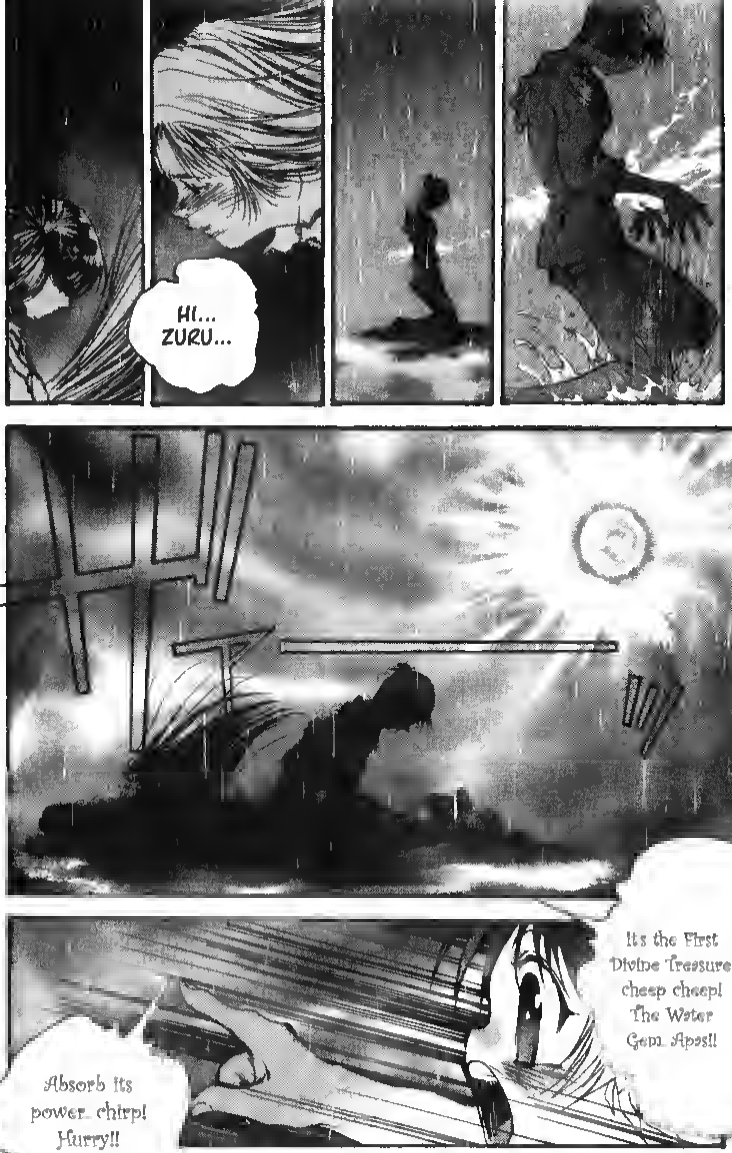
THIS LIGHT!
THIS LIGHT!
DAD!

?!
MOMMY!
DADDY!
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?
COME ON, WE HAVE TO GET OUT!! IT'S SINKING!

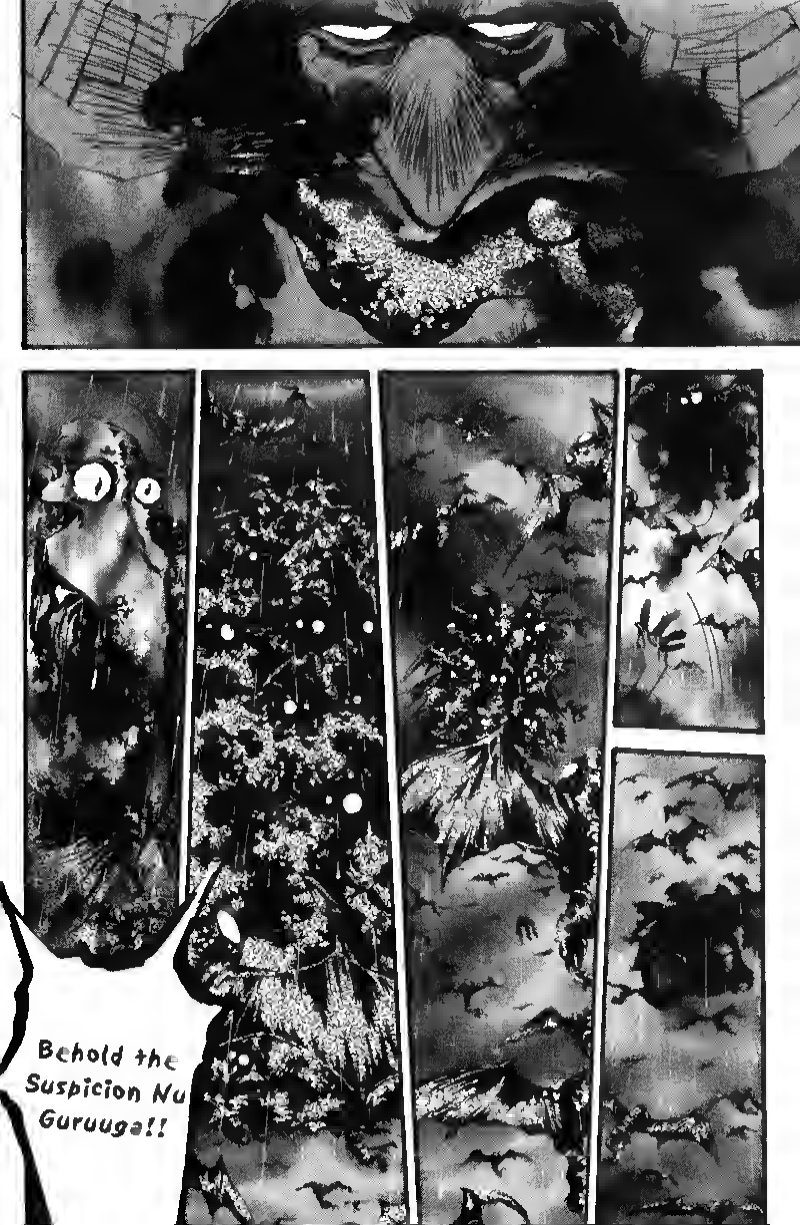
THIS... LIGHT!
EVER SINCE THAT MOMENT
THIS

Don't listen to her!!
KILL HER!!
WE'RE NOT ALONE.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY WE LOST OUR PARENTS
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER.

I--
I'M
NOT...
ALONE?


HI... ZURU...
It's the First Divine Treasure cheep cheep! The Water Gem. Aqos!!
Absorb its power. chirp! Hurry!!

ARE... YOU... CRAZY?!
WHERE AM I...
HIZURU!
Creatures of the dark! Maggots of iniquity!!
She was stabbed by an Aura Knife chirp!
Only a Divine Surge can heal her now, pll
She needs to hear the Melody pll Play it! Let the music heal her!
Absorb my power and join the ranks of the Suspicion. Lend me your strength, vile ones!!
...SUPPOSED TO GET THE ENERGY... TO DO THAT?
DAMMIT!!


Behold the
Suspicion Nu
Gurouga!!

Kill the girl-- that stupid spawn of Teos! Destroy the Divine Treasure within her!!

GET OUT OF HERE, RHYTHM!!

Tsukuya!!
KRRGH!!
!!
YOU CAN CUT ME WITH YOUR DAMNED AURA KNIVES--
--BUT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH LIFE-FORCE YOU BLEED FROM ME...
...I'M STILL TOO MUCH GENIUS FOR YOU TO HANDLE!!

ACT.13 Bond END

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Hizuru! Wake up! You can do it, pi!
If the Divine Treasure's destroyed, then Coach Minamida will die. cheep cheep!
She's been your Guardian since the very beginning, chirp!
And it's your sacred duty to receive...
the Divine Treasures of all those that have protected and guarded you through the years, pi!

ACT. 14 Final Desperation

SHE... PROTECTED ME...?
Even if she didn't know it she was always acting as your guardian pl
That was always her fate...
but the Suspicion managed to find out before we did chirp!
WE'VE NEVER KEPT SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER, HIZURU EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS

I'LL PROTECT YOUR DIVING TREASURE.
SO HANG IN THERE, OKAY? JUST FOR A BIT.
...BIG SISTER.

A DIVINE SOUND WALL?

WHOA, WAY TO GO, HIJOU!! I'M VERY IMPRESSED
DON'T BE! LOOK AT THE OCEAN, IDIOT!!
The Holy Treasure— they've almost reached it!
IMPROV NO. 2.

Go, Suspicion Nu Gurauga!
Destroy the Divine Treasure!
HELP ME, HIJOU! GIVE ME YOUR STRENGTH!
Tekuya! Your fingers!
HIJOU!
!!

I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE, SO MAKE IT COUNT.
HURRY-- I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD OUT!
If the Divine Treasure's destroyed, then the power held within it
Will turn against the world! Cheap! It'll destroy everything!
READY?
NOD
KEY CHANGE!!

A Divine Wave Ray?!
SKATE THE BEAM, HIZURU! BUT THIS TIME, WIN!!

You have it!! Now crush it!!
CRUSH ITTTT!!

DROWN MANKIND IN THE POWER!!

Don't stop, you idiots! The power of the Divine Treasure is reaching meltdown!

TAKE--
PUNCH RIGHT THROUGH THAT SUCKER!!
THAT!!

You have to take the power of the Divine Treasure inside you cheep!
Hizuru!
You have to bring it peace chirp! Calm it down

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE A SIMPLE HEARTBREAK IS ENOUGH TO CAUSE THE DIVINE TREASURE TO RAGE LIKE THAT
I GUESS THESE GUARDIANS OF YOURS AREN'T ALL THEY'RE CRACKED UP TO BE
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL EVER UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT LOVE

CHUCK
YOU FIND SOMETHING?
JUST SOMETHING THE COACH DROPPED
...
I'M STILL A GIRL, Y'KNOW I UNDERSTAND
WHETHER I CAN EXPLAIN IT OR NOT
SURE, HEART-ON-HER-SLEEVE HIZURU.
RHYTHM, GO FETCH IT BACK!
HEY, WHY'D YOU DO THAT? THAT'S LITTERING!
SO YOU'RE NOT "IMPRESSED" WITH ME ANYMORE?
JEEZ, YOU ARE SO UPTIGHT I COULD WATCH A SOLAR ECLIPSE THROUGH YOUR ASS AND STILL BE SAFE!
Better toss this in the trash, chirp
WHAT ?!
IT ONLY TURNED TO SLUDGE AFTER LISTENING TO YOUR MUSIC
NO DUH LIKE YOU COULD RETAIN ANYTHING WITH THAT SLUDGE-LIKE BRAIN OF YOURS
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

ACT 14 Final Desperation END

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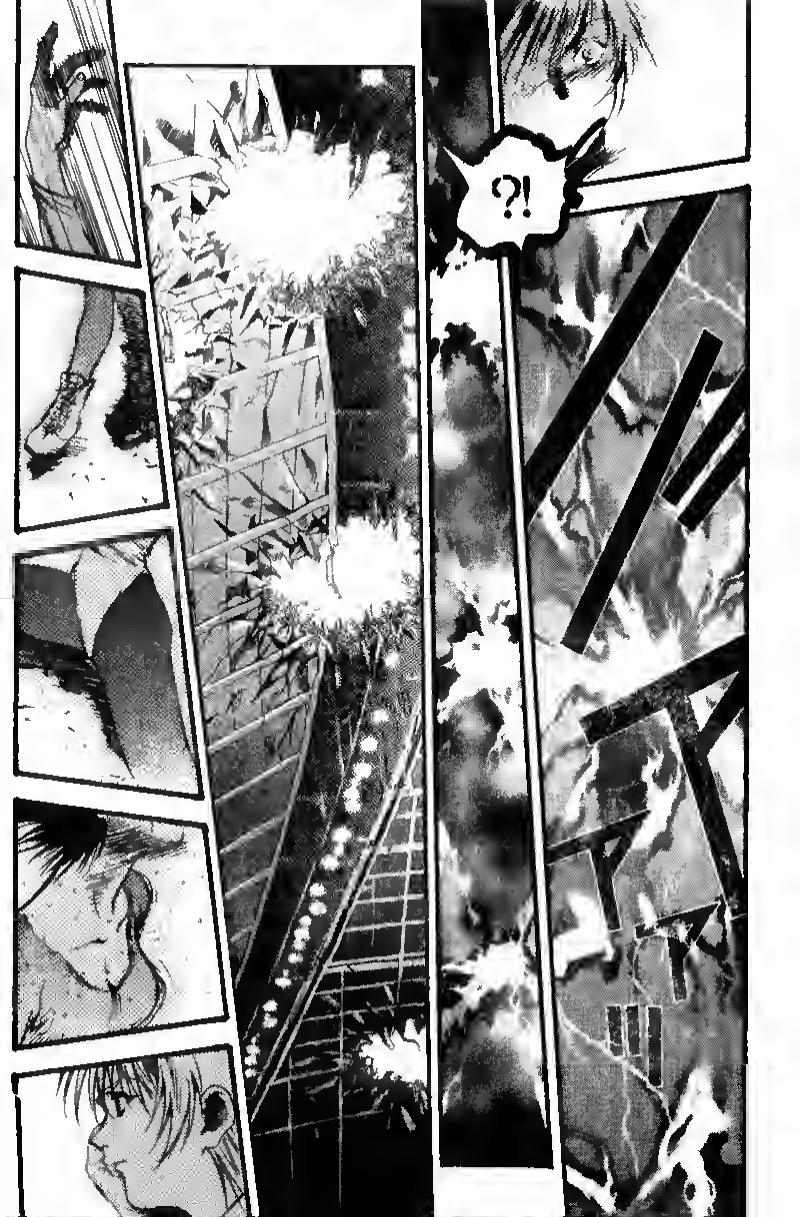
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR YOU WHEN I SEE HOW PATHETICALLY FRAGILE YOU'VE BECOME...
TEOS.
YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT-- BARELY A BREATH.
YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED ME TO ENTER YOUR SACRED CIRCLE SO EASILY BEFORE.

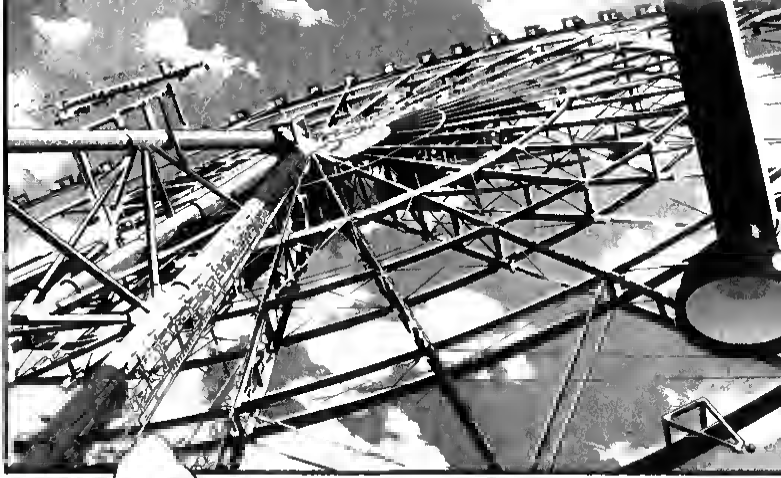
ACT.15 At the Divine Ward

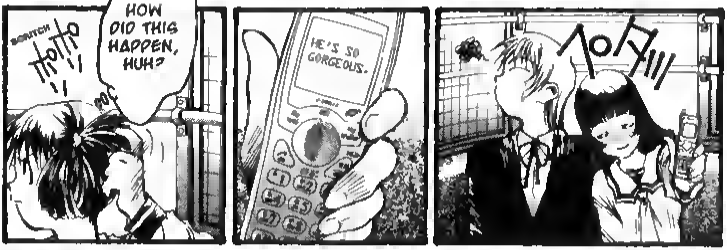


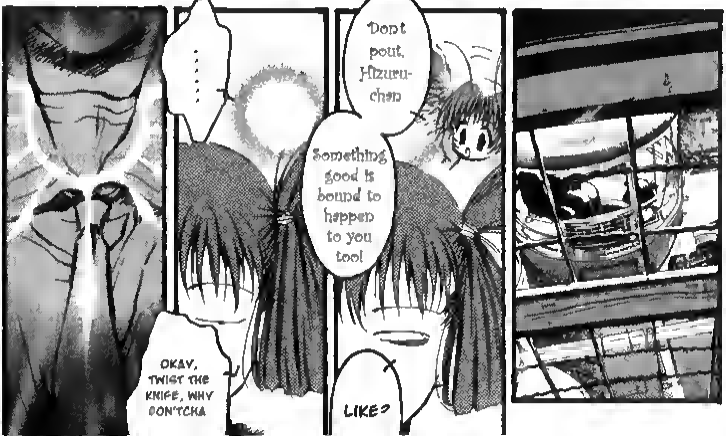
DON'T BE JEALOUS. I NEED TO OBSERVE HER SO I CAN COMPOSE THE PERFECT SONG FOR HER. HER VERY OWN ANTHEM!
GEE, NEED A HANKY TO WIPE THAT DROOL OFF YOUR CHIN?
HEY, NO TOUCHING --
YOU COULD TURN ME STUPID!
I'M NOT JEALOUS, YOU CREEP!
IF YOU CAN'T KEEP QUIET, THEN I SUGGEST YOU BOTH--
CLAP
STOP IT, YOU TWO!!

I'M SO GLAD THAT COACH IS BACK TO HER OLD SELF AGAIN. HEY, WHY DON'T YOU BUY ME SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE, HUH? HIJOU?
YOU'RE PRETTY QUICK WITH THE ESCAPE, AREN'T YOU?
!!
Shouldn't you be thinking about finding and protecting the next Divine Treasure instead of food?!
Especially since we don't know how much longer Mistress Teos can maintain the Divine Seal, cheep!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE I GAINED THE POWER OF THE WATER GEM OR WHAT, BUT
. LATELY I FEEL LIKE--IF I EVEN RELAX FOR ONE BIT--MY EMBLEM WILL JUST APPEAR BY ITSELF
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
HEY!
I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP--I MEAN IT!

ICHIGO!
THEY RELEASED YOU FROM THE HOSPITAL?!
WHY DON'T WE GO DO SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE?
M-E-A-N-I-E.
O-N A D-A-TE?
!!
OKAY!
IT'S MY TREAT!




SCRATCH
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN, HUH?
HE'S SO GORGEOUS.


Don't pout, Mizuru-chan
Something good is bound to happen to you too!
LIKE?
.....
OKAY, TWIST THE KNIFE, WHY DON'TCHA

HUH? N-NO WAY!!
?!
STOP!! NOT HERE! PLEASE!!

IS IT ANOTHER DIVINE TREASURE?
.....
PATHETIC

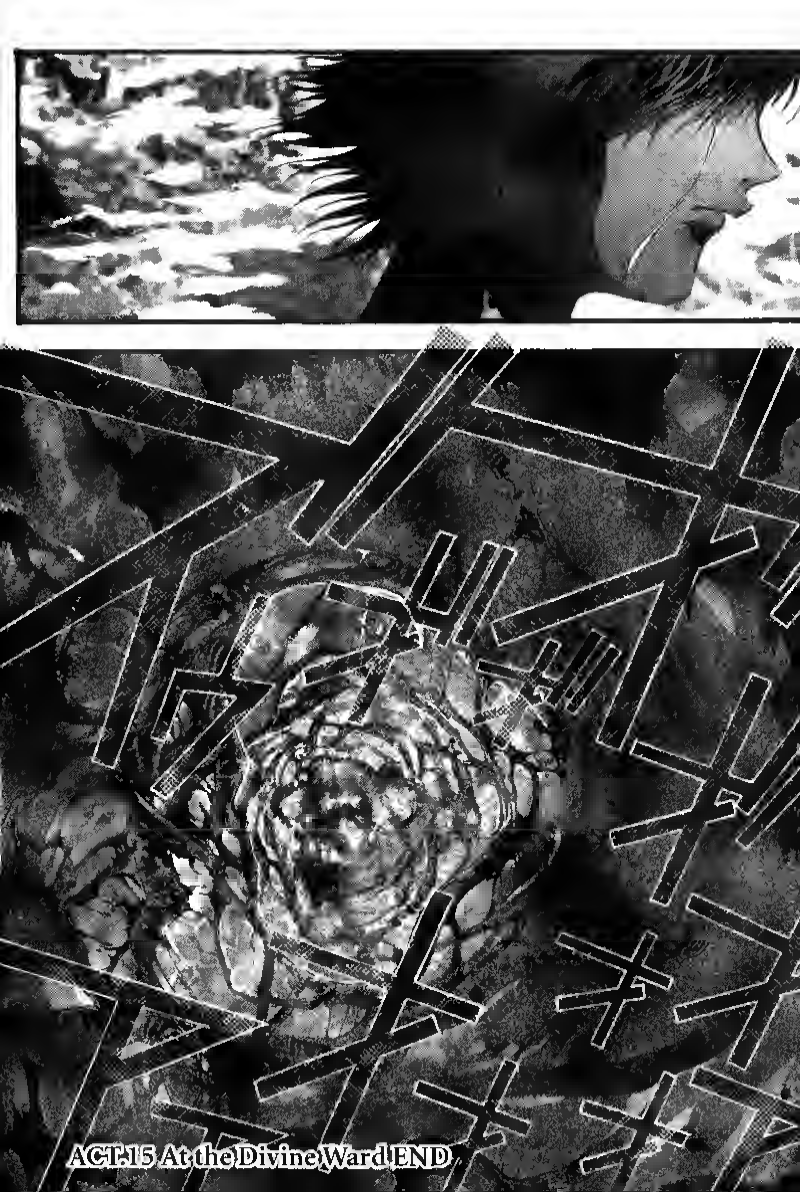
DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE BECOME?
AND STILL YOU SEEK TO KEEP THE PATH TO THE WORLD OF MAN CLOSED.

IF ONLY TIME HAD ALLOWED...
...I WOULD HAVE WAITED FOR YOU TO DIE NATURALLY
...DEFENDING THAT WHICH YOU SO LOVED. WOULDN'T THAT HAVE BEEN NICE OF ME?

FOR, IF YOUR LITTLE CLUB OBTAINS THE POWER OF REVERIE, *THE PATH TO THE WORLD OF MAN WILL BE CLOSED TO US FOREVER!*
THAT'S JUST TOO EXCLUSIVE.
HOWEVER, I CANNOT ALLOW THAT NOW!
I DON'T HAVE TIME.

D...
DE...
MI...
DEMIGO...

...DI



ACT.15 At the Divine Ward END

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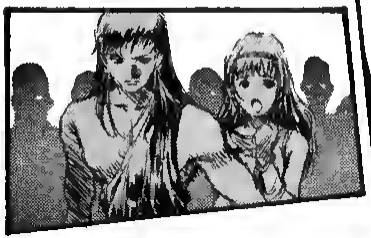
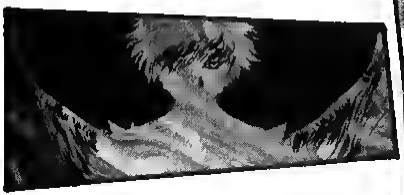
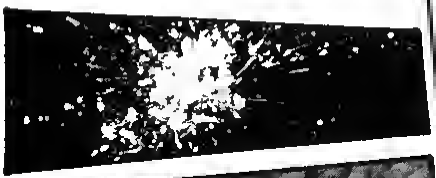
ACT.16 Truth

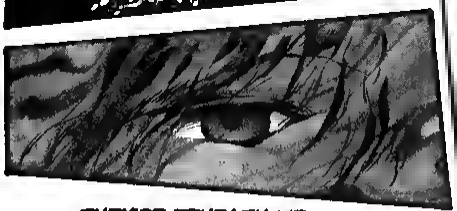


WE CAN CO-EXIST WITH THE HUMANS, DEMIGOD!

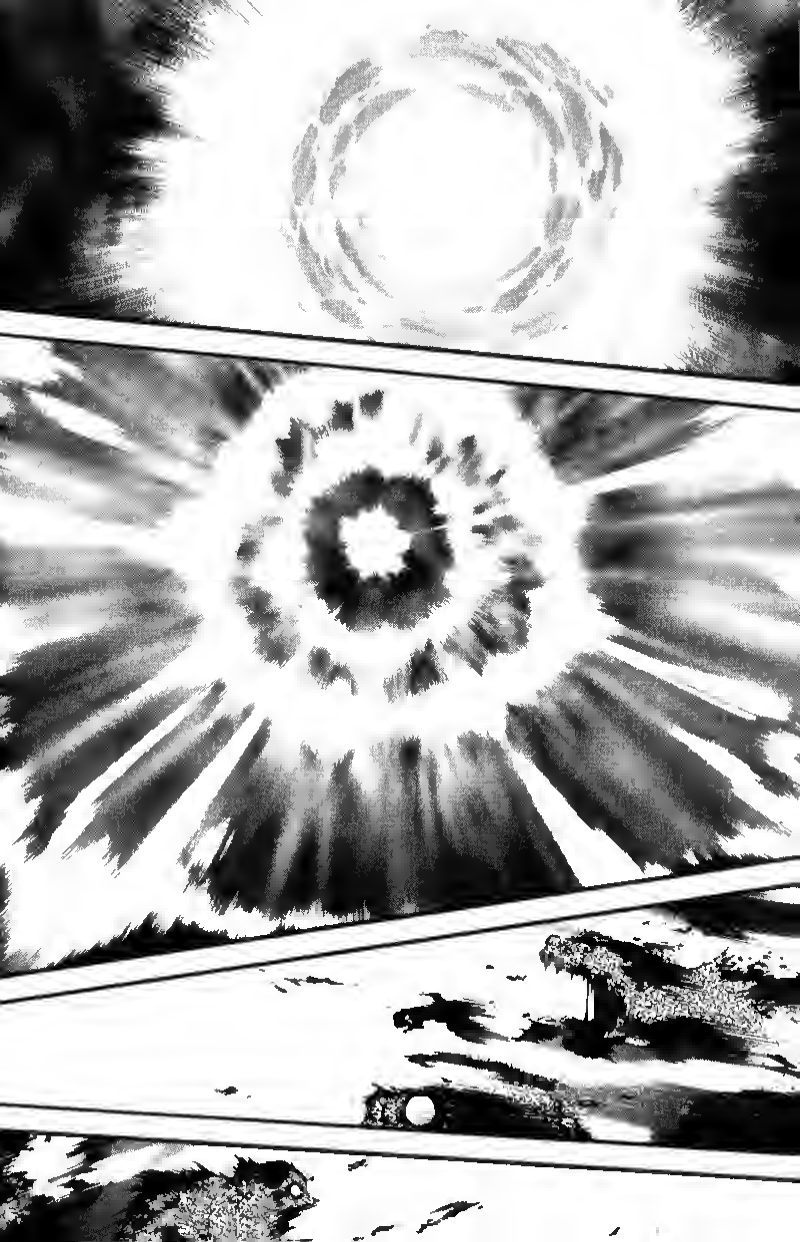


AH, TEOS, WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO THE RAMBLINGS OF A LAPDOG TO THE HUMAN RACE?





THEY'RE BENEATH ME. BENEATH US!



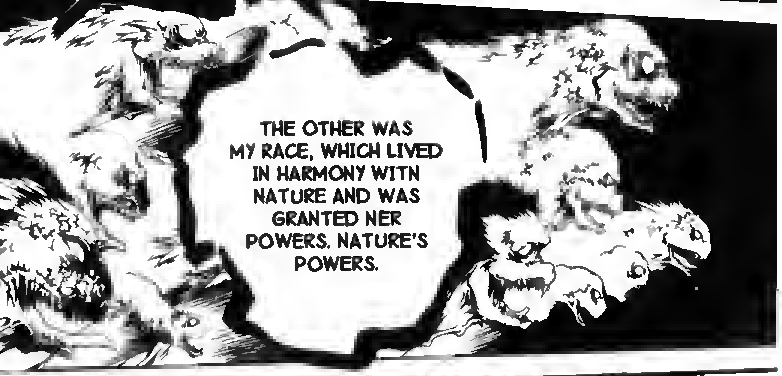
YOU, DARKSPAWN-- I SHALL TAKE YOU ALL TO HELL WITH ME!!

Mistress Teos?

DEMI... GOD...
WHY DO YOU AID MORTALS?
IS IT, TEOS?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU LOVED ONE?
MY LIFE SUSTAINS THE DIVINE WARD... THE WARD THAT SEALS THE SUSPICION IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS.

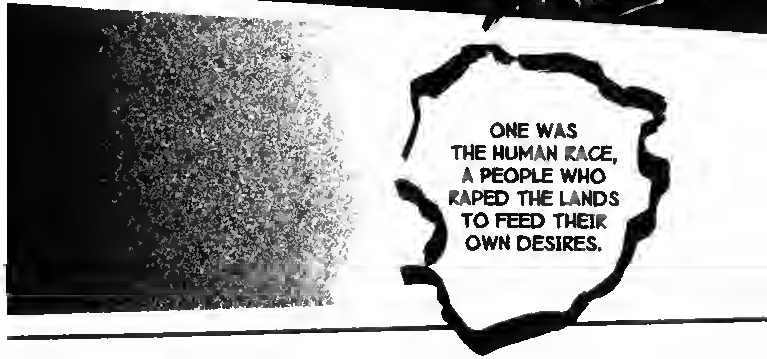
ARE YOU STILL THERE?
THE DYING TEOS HAS CALLED YOU HERE IN SPIRIT, HAS SHE?
SO--IT'S THE BLOOD OF TEOS.
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND LISTEN WELL...
...TO THE TRUTH THAT HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE!

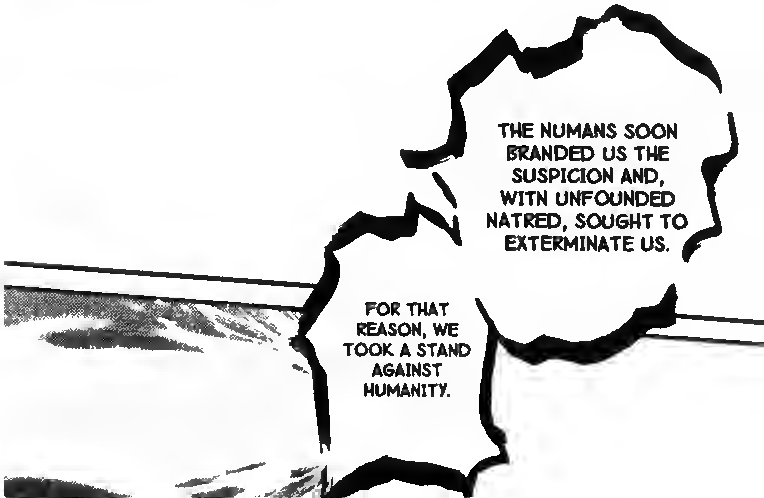
AS TIME AND EVOLUTION WENT ON, FROM THE ONE EMERGED TWO VERY DIFFERENT RACES.


THE OTHER WAS MY RACE, WHICH LIVED IN HARMONY WITN NATURE AND WAS GRANTED NER POWERS. NATURE'S POWERS.

WE FOUGHT FOR OUR HOMES AND OUR VERY SURVIVAL.
BUT WE WERE BETRAYED...

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS ONLY ONE RACE UPON THIS EARTH.


ONE WAS THE HUMAN RACE, A PEOPLE WHO RAPED THE LANDS TO FEED THEIR OWN DESIRES.


THE NUMANS SOON BRANDED US THE SUSPICION AND, WITN UNFOUNDED NATRED, SOUGHT TO EXTERMINATE US.
FOR THAT REASON, WE TOOK A STAND AGAINST HUMANITY.

ACT 16 Truth - END

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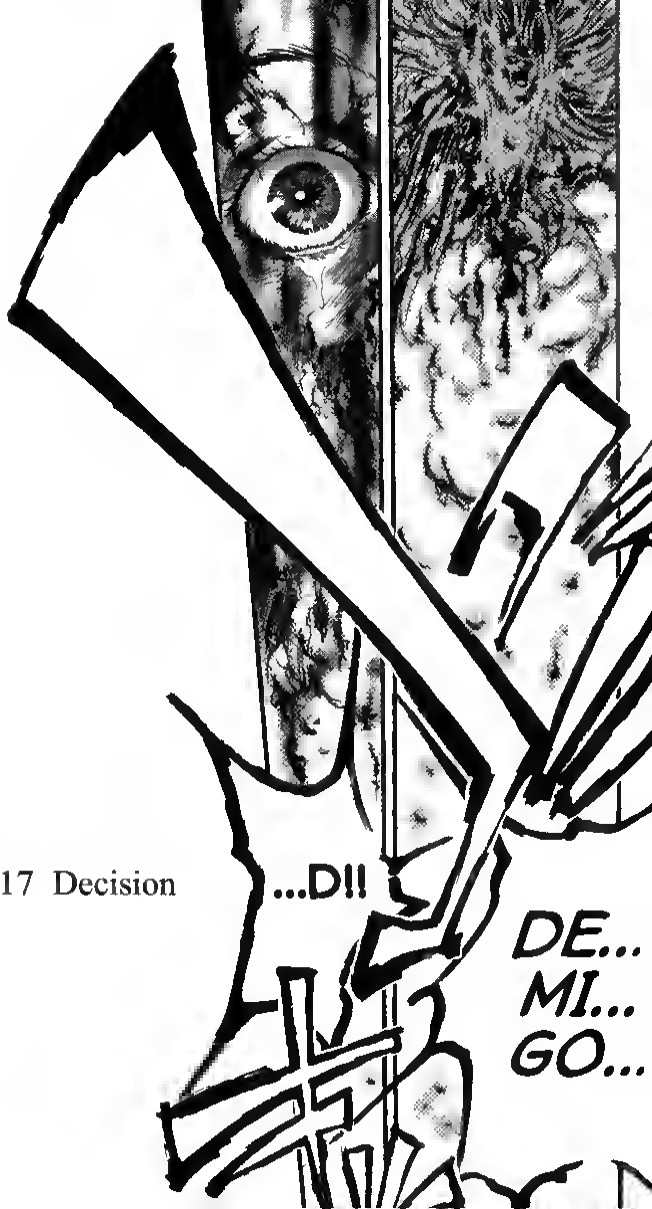

ACT.17 Decision

NOW TEOS IS DEAD!
WE ARE FINALLY FREE FROM OUR LIGHTLESS, TIMELESS PRISON.
WE WILL RECLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS! WE WANT OUR HOMES BACK! WE WANT OUT PLANET BACK!

IT'S TOO LATE TO OPPOSE US, BLOOD OF TEOS!! GATHER ALL THE DIVINE TREASURES THAT YOU WANT--
--THEY'LL DO YOU NO GOOD NOW!!

WELL?
THINK WE CAN STILL WIN?
.....
.....

I GUESS ...
...IT TURNED OUT TO BE MY LAST TOO, HUH?
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
DID YOU KNOW THAT
TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER WALKED THE TOWN WITH A BOY
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THAT UP NOW?

I MEAN, IT TOTALLY SUCKS END OF WORLD OR ANOTHER EXAM-- EITHER WAY, WE CAN'T ENJOY THIS PLACE
WHAT WERE THE TIAA* ARCHITECTS THINKING WHEN THEY BUILT OUR CAMPUS RIGHT BY ODAIBA, ANYWAY? "HOW CAN WE GET THE STUDENTS TO STUDY? I KNOW, WE'LL PUT THEM NEAR AN AMUSEMENT PARK." SMART, HUH?
*TOKYO INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
.....
?
BUT
I KNOW SORRY I ONLY HAD MY UNIFORM TO WEAR FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE OUR LAST TIME. TAKE MY HAND
?!
!!
PULL

SO WHADDAYA SAY, LADIES?
CARE TO JOIN ME ON A LITTLE DATE?
REALLY? I THINK THAT ONE WOULD LOOK BETTER ON YA.
BAP
OH! SOH
THAT IS SO CUTE!

THE NEXT TIME I VISIT, I'D LIKE TO SPEND A BIT MORE TIME HERE.
THAT IS, WITH GIRLS CUTER THAN THE LIKES OF YOU, OF COURSE!

IT'S COMING FROM THE SCHOOL!!

EVERYTHING LOOKS NORMAL SO FAR

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT'S THAT?
!!

WHEN DID THIG HAPPEN?
WHO TOOK THESE GHOTS?
I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT, MYSELF
FOR ONE THING
I GUESS WE'RE GONNA BE PRETTY INFAMOUS AROUND CAMPUS NOW.
BLUSH
QUICK, GET ICHIGO OUT OF HERE!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!!

ACT.17 Decision END

100% ILLEGAL MANGA
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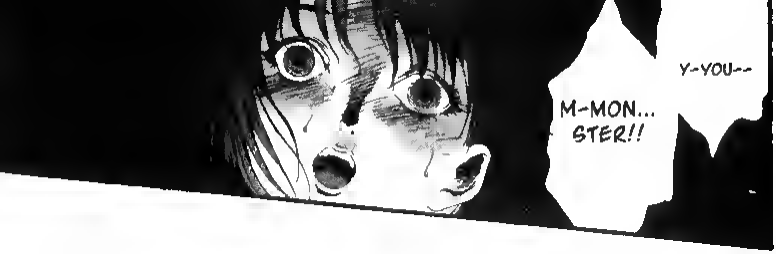

ACT.18 Invasion

THUD
ドドドドド
ドン

N-NO!!
THE DIVINE WARD HAS BEEN BROKEN. MASTER DEMIGOD SHALL SOON LEAD HIS ARMY INTO THIS LAND OF THE LIGHT.
MY TASK IS TO CLEAR HIS PATH, TO CLEANSE THE WORLD OF ANY IMPURITIES... SUCH AS YOURSELVES
TRY TO STOP US IF YOU MUST!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

KYAAHH!!
HELP!!

?!

W-WHAT IS THAT THING? A BALL?
No, pi!!
Look again!!
It's--

GRR GGHHH!
GEEHH...
GEEHHH
GEEHHH
GEEHHH
SOMEONE...
GEEHH...
IT HURTS...
GEEHH...
AAHHHH...
H... HELP...
IT'S--
IT'S A BIG BLOB OF PEOPLE?!
MY SISTER!!
NO!!
HIJOU! THE MELODY!!
NOW!!
I'M ON IT!!

GyAAHHHHHHHHH!

I'M COMING, SIS! HOLD ON!

RAIN? NO, DEAR GOD, NO--IT'S BLOOD!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, HIZURU. THEY COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN EVERYONE...
YOUR SISTER MAY BE SAFE. WE NEED TO FIND THE SURVIVORS AND PROTECT THEM...
THAT'S THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR US TO DO NOW!!
!!

IT BLEEDS!
THAT MEANS WE CAN KILL IT!!
It's the students, cheep!! They're doing this!
WE'RE NOT THE BAD GUYS!
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
MONSTER!!
MURDERER!!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!!
S-STOP!!
W-WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING?!

BUT WHO --?
DAMN!!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THOSE PICTURES!!
I HAVE TO CREATE A--
DON'T!!
DIVINE SOUND WALL!!
?!
!!
Ha ha ha ha!
!!

ACT.18 Invasion END

100% ILLEGAL MANGA
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YOU'RE YEAH-- YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
Ha ha ha!
Humans never change, do they?
WAIT A SECOND!!
SHE'S NOT WHO YOU THINK SHE IS! LISTEN TO ME-- YOU'VE HEARD THAT VOICE BEFORE TOO!
IT BELONGS TO THE CREATURE THAT ATTACKED ICHIGO AND COACH MIHAMIDA!

Humans have always feared that which they do not know.
Anything that's different from them is an enemy.
And then they preach goodness and light to excuse themselves of their own sin of genocide. Murderers.

ACT.19 The Choice

Ruidi But how?
I thought Hizuru had--
During the downpour, you stole more than the power of the Apas from me-- you destroyed my body as well.
I had no choice but to borrow the body of this girl. It's not my fault. If anything, it's yours.

HOW COULD YOU?
I'LL GET RID OF YOU FOR GOOD THIS TIME!
HIJOU!!
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!
Do it and you'll force me to turn another Human Balloon into a glorious bloody rainstorm!

KRR...!!
YOU SICK--
Allow me to give back to you...
...all the pain and suffering you've caused me!!
KYAAA HHHHH HHHHH !!

DAMN IT
Hizuru!!

THUD

?!
--THEN I'M GONNA GO DOWN KICKING YOUR ASS!!
IF WE'RE GOING DOWN NO MATTER WHAT WE DO--
It doesn't have to be like that. You have one last chance to save yourselves.

In fact, we were the very same species!
There was a time, at the very beginning of history, when you and I were on the same side.
See the fear in their eyes? The scorn?!
Want proof? Look around.
Look at all those whom you seek to protect.
ICHIGO!
QUICK! RUN!

So, now that you've seen the true face of the human race--
Haah ha ha ha ha ha!
I... I...
--what do you say? Join us!! Help us fight to reclaim what is ours!!
What are you mumbling about now?
I...
DON'T LISTEN TO HER!

I
I'M...

I'M HUMAN, DAMMIT!
AND THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER JOIN THE LIKES OF YOU!!

You fool!! You could have saved your life!
FORGET IT!
I'M CUTE. YOU'RE UGLY! WE DON'T MIX!!
SHE'S GONE?

DAMMIT!!

HIZURU!!
HNNHH
DON'T GET COCKY
If you love humans so much--
--then how's this for a plan?
I'll let you die just like them...
...quickly...

ACT.19 The Choice END

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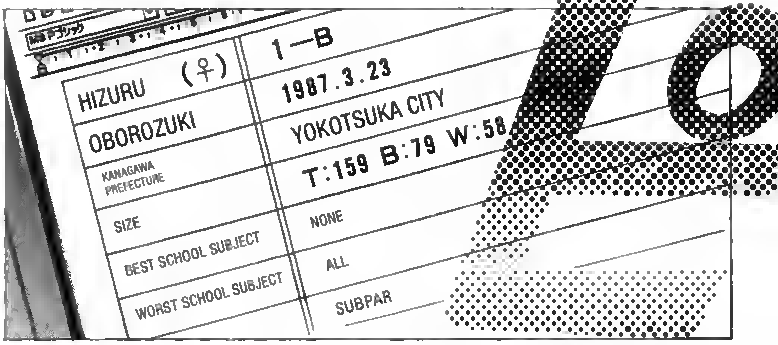
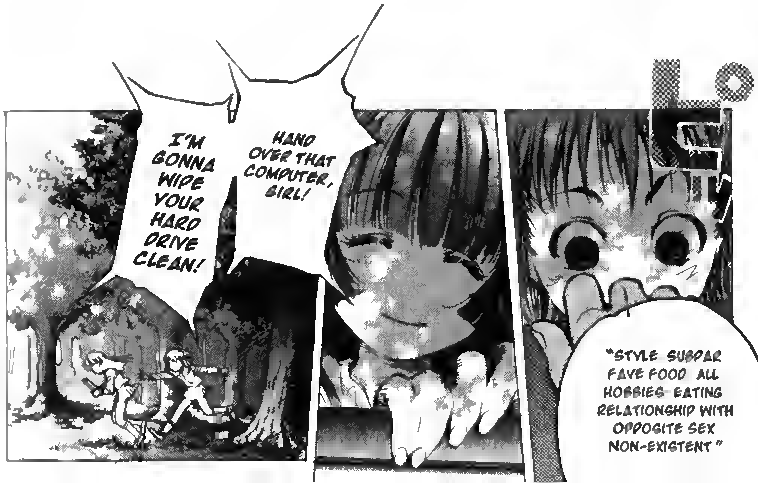
WHY... I MEAN, HOW COME YOU'RE ALWAYS OUT HERE ALL ALONE--JUST YOU AND YOUR LAPTOP?
HI THE NAME'S HIZURU OBOROZUKI.
WHAT'S YOURS?



ACT.20 Friendship

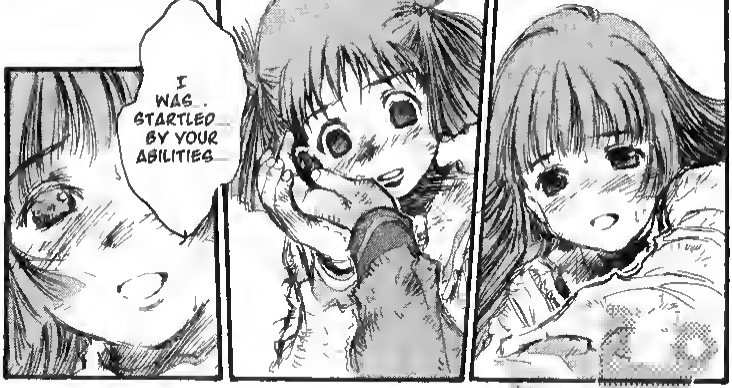

I'M GONNA WIPE YOUR HARD DRIVE CLEAN!
HAND OVER THAT COMPUTER, GIRL!
"STYLE SUBPAR FAVE FOOD ALL HOBBIES EATING RELATIONSHIP WITH OPPOSITE SEX NON-EXISTENT"

ICHIGO!!

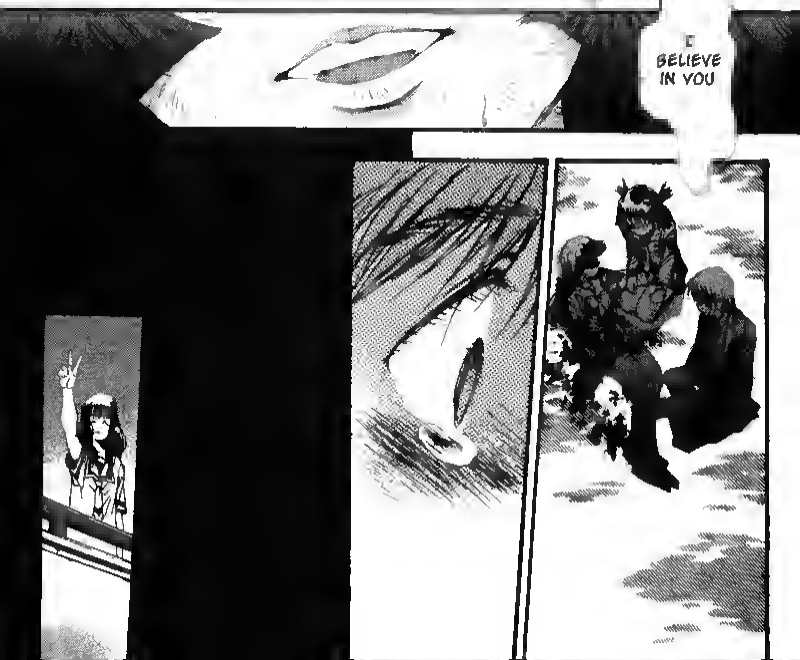
I CAN GATHER ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS SIGNED UP FOR THIS YEAR'S THREE LEGGED RACE. ANALYZE THEIR FORM AND TALENT AND REPORT MY FINDINGS TO YOU! AND I M PRETTY GOOD AT IT TOO AFTER ALL, THAT S WHY TIAA ACCEPTED ME INTO THEIR COMPUTER DEPARTMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
DATA ANALYSIS ?
UH HUH SURE
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY? YOU ME PARTNERS FOR THE RACE? I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING SPECIAL SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER STUDENTS!!

ICHIGO!!
THUD
WRITTEN WORDS DON'T BETRAY PEOPLE OR CREATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS LIKE SPOKEN ONES DO AND THIS WAY, I CAN KEEP A LOG OF EVERYTHING WE SAY. THE ONLY TIME I'LL EVER TALK TO ANYONE IS IF...
SO WHY IS IT THAT YOU DON'T TALK, AGAIN?
ICHIGO?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

WATCH OUT!!
HI... ZURU-CHA... NN...



THE ONLY TIME I'LL EVER TALK TO ANYONE IS IF I TRULY, TRULY TRUST AND BELIEVE IN THAT PERSON FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

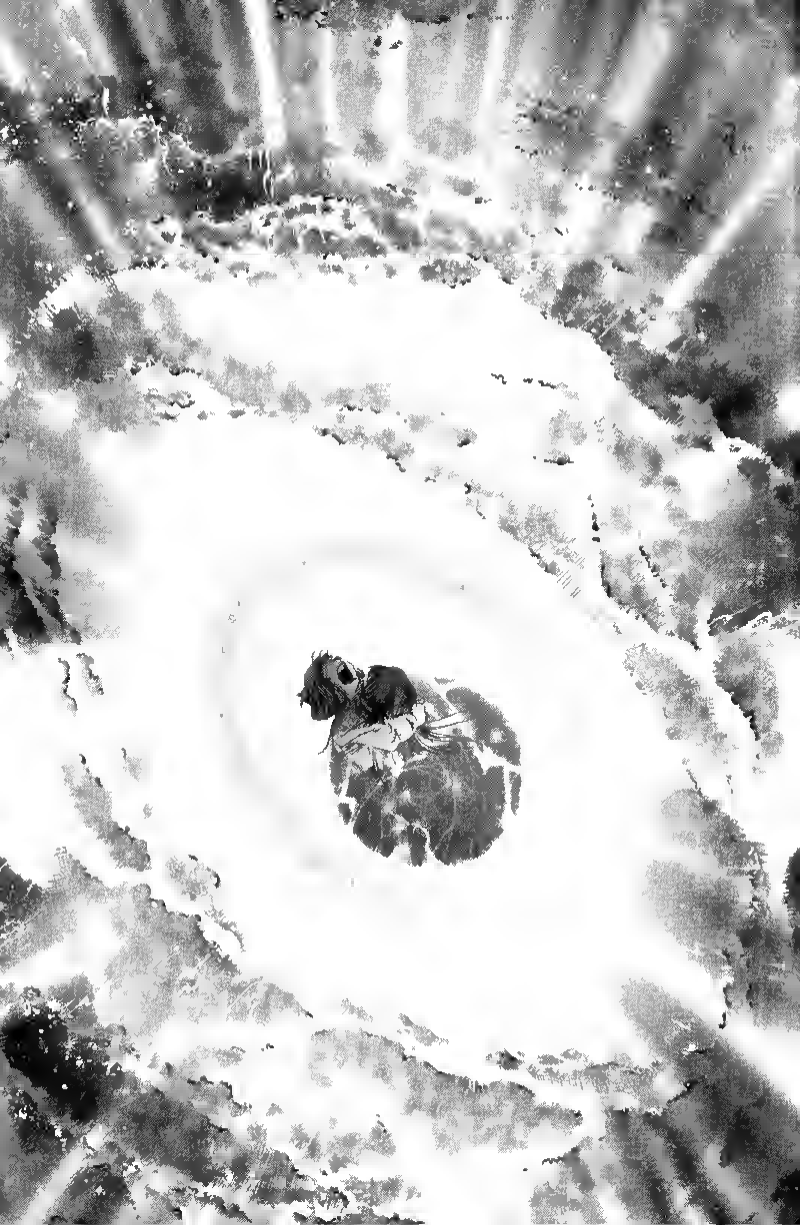


Why don't you do them all a favor, and go thank them yourself-- in Hell!!
I'm on the verge of tears, here. All these people, falling over, killing themselves for you.

HIZURU!
DAMMIT!
KABOOOMMMMMMMMM!

Wh-
What
the--?!

It--it's the Water Gem!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
Geh...?!
The Water Gem's about to be released cheep!! It's not over yet!!!
GRRRGH...



GRrg...
Gee...
geh GEH...
pu...
Gee...
POOOOoooooo!!
IS THAT THE POWER OF THE WATER GEM...?

You fools !!
It's too late, don't you see?!
Soon-- PpPRGG HhhHH...
IS IT OVER? IS EVERYONE SAFE NOW?

A DEMIGOD'S COMING, CHIRP!!
BOOM!!

ICHIGO!!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
ICHIGO!!
SHE'S GONE!!
HIZURU!!

HE ARRIVED WITH A FORCE SO GREAT THAT IN BUT ONE BREATH...
...THE ENTIRE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE ISLAND...

WAH--
TH-
THAT'S
NOT
SMOKE!
...WAS
UTTERLY
RAVAGED!!

ACT 20 Friendship END

100% ILLEGAL MANGA
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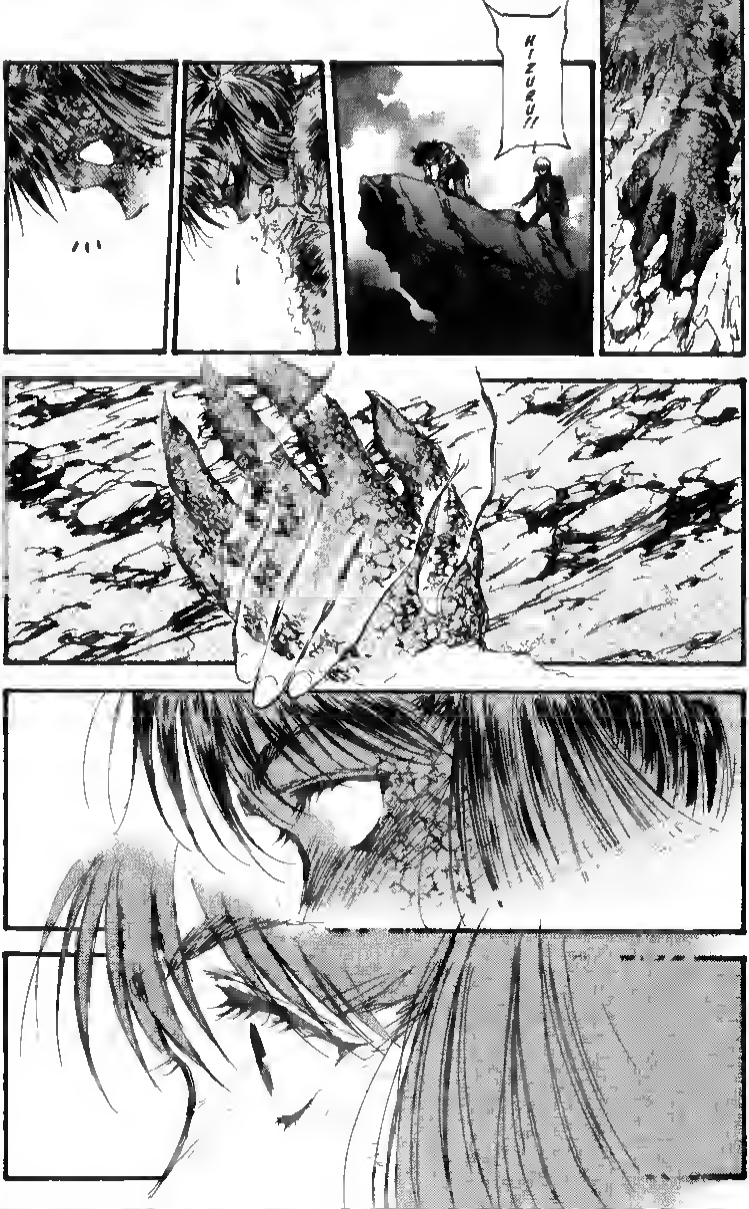
D-
Demigod!!
. . . . .
!!
DEMIGOD
...

FINAL ACT:
Together with the Light

THAT FORM...
The blood of the Suspicion is within her
Oh no chirp! She can't win!
Not by using the power of the dark, cheep!!

...BLOOD OF TEOS!!
ALLOW ME TO EXTEND MY WARMEST WELCOME...
BLOOD OF MY SWEETEST LITTLE SISTER!!

ARRGHH!!
HIZURU!!


HIZURU!!

HIZURU...
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU...OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE
BIG SISTER?!
NEVER FORGET
YOU'RE NOT ALONE YOU'RE NEVER ALONE

YOU CAN DO IT, HIZURU-CHAN!!
VICTORY!!
ICHIGO!
HIZURU-CHAN...
...WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!!

This is Mistress Teos final power pll
W-WHAT IS THIS?!
HOW ...
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?! TEOS IS---
Because cheap
I myself AM Mistress Teos final power her last bit of will, chirp!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Good luck with your music, Takuya
THE DIVINE TREASURE IS WITHIN THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE CHIRP

THIS... THIS POWER... HIZURU ...?!
MY EMBLEM, IT'S BACK

AND FOR ONE GLORIOUS MOMENT, THE ENTIRE ISLAND WAS ENVELOPED BY A LIGHT BRIGHTER THAN ANYTHING YOU COULD IMAGINE.

HIZURU-CHAN.
YOU CAN DO IT!
HIZURU-CHAN
HIZURU...
YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
I'M WITH YOU TOO.

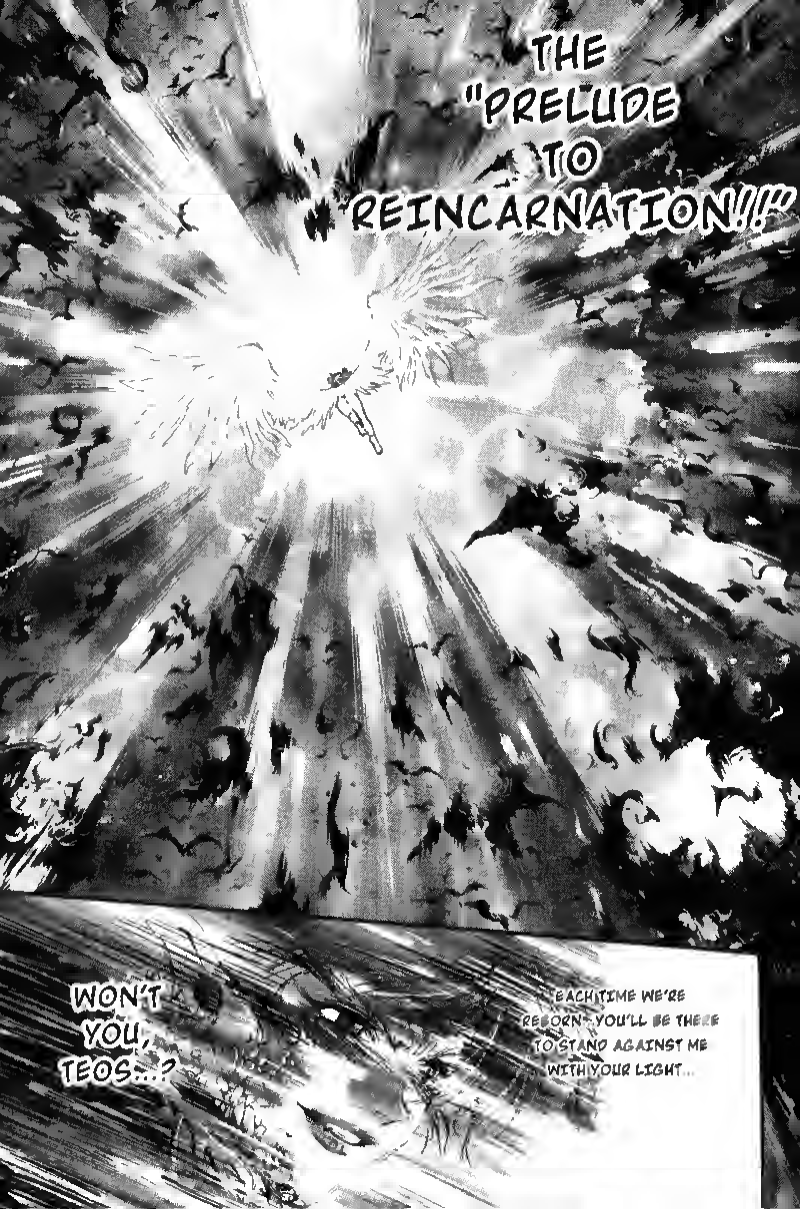
WE'RE ALL WITH YOU ON THIS.
I'M ON YOUR SIDE!!
YOU'RE NOT A TRAITOR, HIZURU..
HIZURU-CHAN!!
TAKE HIM DOWN!! ...TOGETHER...
I'LL HELP YOU TOO
HIZURU OBOROZUKI WE'RE WITH YOU!!
HIZURU...I'M HERE WITH YOU.
FOR OUR FUTURE.
WE'RE ALL WITH YOU ON THIS.
HIZURU-CHAN!!

I CAN HEAR...
SUPPORT
TRUST
LOVE
WE WON'T LET YOU DO THIS ALONE
YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
I. I. I.
.....
LET'S DO THIS!
FEEL FREE TO CHIME IN ANYTIME, TAKUYA
BLUSH
DORK!!
HOW CAN YOU JOKE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
H-HIZURU!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU?!

NO..
I'M NOT GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN, AM I? GOODBYE, TAKUYA.
HIZURU!!

LEND ME
YOUR STRENGTH!!
EVERYONE!
TAKUYA... PROMISE ME THAT
..YOU'LL LIVE
FOR ME AS WELL!!

CAN YOU HEAR IT, HIZURU?
ALL RIGHT, HIZURU-- I PROMISE.
I CAN, TAKUYA... I CAN!


THE "PRELUDE TO REINCARNATION!!"
WON'T YOU, TEOS...?
"EACH TIME WE'RE REBORN, YOU'LL BE THERE TO STAND AGAINST ME WITH YOUR LIGHT..."

THANK YOU...
...TAKUYA.

パチパチ
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN BESIDES
BUT I GUESS IT ALSO TURNED OUT TO BE MY LAST TOO, HUH?

YOU'RE RIGHT THERE, AREN'T YOU?
RIGHT THERE...
BABY BIRTH◈ END

BABY BIRTH

Sukehiro Tomita:
Born April 14th Saitama Prefecture
Representative Works:
Original Manga: *Legend of the Love Angel*, *Wedding Peach*
Anime Scripts: *Beautiful Warrior Sailor Moon* and *Salary Man*
Kintaro Novels. *Gal Force*

Haruhiko Mikimoto:
Born August, 28th Tokyo.
Representative Works:
Character design: *Super Dimensional Fortress Macross* and *Aim for the Top!*
Manga Work. *Macross 7 Trash*

End of Book Special—Round Table Discussion

I Only Wish I Could Have Played With Takuya's Character A Little Bit More!!

Miki Haruhiko Mikimoto
Tomi. Sukehiro Tomita
Ed. Editor

Ed. Congratulations on completing the final chapter of ***Baby Birth*** and thank you both for all your hard work. On that note, I was hoping I could get your thoughts on completing the series

Tomi To be honest, it doesn't even feel like it's over for me yet

Miki. To me it's more like, "Ahh, it's finally over." I think I'm still recovering from the blast though, you know? I've been lucky enough to have received quite a few manga projects in the past but, with ***Baby Birth***, it was very different. It was also the first time that I was exposed to a lot of things in the manga industry, like receiving the original works and, though it proved to be very difficult, it was also the first time that I doubled up as well

Ed Doubled up? Oh, I see that you had two concurrent works?

Miki. Yes, this was the first time I've ever done something like that and, quite honestly, there were many times I stumbled during the course of things. Still, I consider it a learning experience—something I can grow from

もう少し拓也をいじりたかった!!

Ed. Tomita-Sensei, might I inquire about your thoughts on the final chapter of the story?

Tomi. I was happy with it since I think a good job was done of really conveying Hizuru-chan's feelings to the reader. I guess there's just something sentimental and emotional about a final episode, eh?

Ed: Unfortunately, our tale ended after only two volumes. Had the story continued a bit longer, was there anything either of you might have added to the overall saga?

Miki: Oh, I think so, yes. When I was drawing the final chapter, it all of a sudden dawned on me that the entire story happened within a matter of three, maybe four days (laugh). I think, at the most, there was a day between each episode, with most events happening immediately after one another. The whole thing may have taken place over the course of a week, but still, you must admit it was quite a short time period. So what I would have liked to have done was really define the characters a bit more, especially ones like Ichigo. Other than that, when we were still in the design stages of the project, I really didn't have a clear idea of how I wanted to present the main character—my head was just too muddled with too many things at the time—and I sort of just drew her without direction. I really felt like there wasn't a lot to get hold of with the character. Now that I think about it, I really should have handled the idea of a girl going through a transformation a bit differently. Not that I think it had to be serious all the way through, but —even with the comical parts—I just wished I had been more detailed, or spent the time to develop it more.

Ed: Like explaining or elaborating on why she had to transform, for example?

Miki: Well, not so much going into specifics or anything, but rather just the transformation process on the whole. One way to approach it was just to have her go through the change and ignore the finer details in the grand scheme of things, which I think would be legitimate. Also, I had hoped to incorporate her own feelings about the transformation process. If you really think about it, a change like that would be quite embarrassing for a girl. After all, changing in front of people is bad enough, but changing in front of a man is even worse, not to mention that all of a sudden she has all these powers and the side effects that come from them. It's like

how could she ever not wonder what was going to happen to her? I really wish I had had the time and opportunity to put more of that into the story.

Ed. So, in other words, you wanted to add more depth to the characters' thoughts and feelings?

Miki: Yes, you could definitely say that, and I think it would have worked for both the serious and comical elements of the story. For example, in most anime nowadays, characters find out they can transform and that's that. It's like second nature to them and the story continues. I just wanted to focus on the thoughts of the female lead, show how she felt about suddenly transforming. I'd certainly have thoughts about it if it happened to me, wouldn't you?

Ed. So would you say that the character you have the most regrets about is Hizuru?

Miki: Well, not really. That's not the right way to put it. It's just that I would like to have made her a bit more interesting. The character that I really wish I had had more time to just tweak and mess with is Takuya.

Ed: As I recall, you were debating making him a really "bad" guy for a while.

Miki: Not so much a "bad" guy but, at first, I just didn't quite know how I should use or present his character. Just being smart wasn't enough, and I thought that just having him show up at the main character's side whenever she was around was boring, too. So then I came up with that thing about the "impromptu compositions" and entitling them, and then that whole genius kick, and, yes, some of it became a bit of a gag, but it showed his aggression and his strength. And after I started really liking those ideas, I thought to myself, "Boy, I would love to have more time to really play with his character a bit more."

Ed: Oh, you mean the legendary "wine glass" scene where you had him in a gorgeous mansion, reclining in a bathrobe and holding a wine glass filled with tomato juice?
(Everyone laughs.)

Miku Yes, yes, things like that

Ed: It just didn't quite fit with the way that the story was flowing, so we couldn t put it in, but I think things like that would have really made him an interesting, intriguing and deep character On that note, what about you, Tomita-sensei? Is there a character you have regrets about?

Tomi: I think I mentioned it in the first volume, but when Mikimoto san went and changed the Takuya that I had presented in the design and name stages—I don't know if this is the right way to put it—I really wish we had more of a chance to bounce ideas of each other Like, "Oh, so he [Mikimoto] wants to do this? Well, what about this instead?" I think that competitive but friendly exchange might have made Takuya more interesting

Ed. Mikimoto-sensei has already answered this question about which character he would have liked to refine or tweak the most, but what about you, Tomita-Sensei? Any character you would like to have worked on more?

Tomi. I would have to say my one character would be the camera girl, Mayumi We had managed to get Ichigo into tough situations before, and I'm sure Mayumi would have had a handful of her own But I suppose that's just how the serial publication business goes—there are just things that have to be sacrificed or cut due to the page restrictions or deadlines Sometimes it's like the story is at the mercy of the pages you're allotted, and I truly believe that, even though it would have meant more work for Mikimoto-san, having more pages would have certainly allowed him to put more detail and more depth into the story as well

Ed. I think that balance of adding character detail and preserving the flow of the story is extremely delicate and hard to do Just when you think that adding an extra episode to focus on character specifics would be a good idea, then you wonder if it will ruin the story tempo It really seems like a Catch 22

Tomi: Definitely It is very hard, I agree

Ed: Since this interview's turned out to be a bit more of a review session, let me add to that and ask you if you have a most memorable moment or favorite scene from the original run of the manga?

Tomi: When you have a comic, the drawings are the main attraction, and often, even when it's not his fault, the artist will also end up taking the blame or flack. So when I was writing the story, even though I certainly didn't want a slew of backlash against Mikimoto-san breaking out, I wasn t about to completely tame situations down either So I truly truly enjoyed seeing how Mikimoto-san took my writing and turned it into something pleasing to all And I mentioned this before as well, but since each panel that Mikimoto san draws is a masterpiece of its own, I really couldn't choose one I like more than the others

Ed: What about you Mikimoto-sensei? Did you have a favorite scene or panel?

Miki. It didn't last, but I really liked how Takuya used a cell phone to compose music in the earlier stages

Ed: Oh, with Ichigo's cell phone

Miki Yeah But after that, we couldn't really think of other good ideas revolving around the phone, so that was sort of disappointing. In a similar vein, I also liked when Takuya tied the guitar strings to his fingers to play music That was another good one

Ed. You mean in Act 13 where he says, "No matter how much Life-Force you bleed from me I'm still too much genius for you to handle!!"

Miki Yes, yes Ahh, I really wanted to give Takuya more corny lines like that Maybe I should have just started him out with lines like that from the get go

Ed: [illegible]

Miki. Well, I'd been jotting down a bunch of ideas for Takuya's lines thoughout the process, and at the end, I had quite a stockpile of them, a lot of which I ended up not being able to use since the appropriate situations never came up. I think it was probably one of those that I wrote down though. Yes, most likely so.

Ed: So, just one item from the "Cool Takuya One-Liners" selection?

Miki. Hmm, I don't think "cool" is the right word to describe his lines. More like corny or outrageous.

Ed: Finally, let me ask you about the types of projects you're looking to do in the future—anything you'd like to sink your teeth into just to sate your ambitions?

Tomi. I would really like to work on something about energetic boys. Lately it seems like boys are a lot weaker than girls, so I would definitely like the chance to work on a solid boy project.

Miki: I was never quite good with the story end of things, so I typically let someone else do the story while I illustrate. But lately, each time I end one of those works or another one shot project, I always wind up saying to myself—and this always happens—that I would really like to do a story of my own where the girl is just full of life, full of energy. When I have tried that in the past though, it just doesn't work out that way, you know? In fact, most times it ends up going to the other end of the spectrum. So, I guess what I'm trying to say is, I would like to do a story that perhaps is more of a comedy, which has a really bouncy, energetic girl... a sort of, anything goes, crazy, anything could-happen type of story. Yes, I would say that that is definitely what I would like to try my hand at.

Ed. So you'd like to try to draw a really in-your face straightforward type of girl?

Miki. Yes definitely. And really, she doesn't have to be the main character. The main character could be a boy, but there could be a girl who lives with him that's just very active and hyper. You know those situation comedies that are just really bright and happy? I would even like to do a more character driven story. I guess I'm just looking to work on the parts of my repertoire that are severely lacking, you know? (Laugh.)

Ed: I really wish we could go on and on, but it seems that our time's up for today. I truly look forward to seeing more great things from both of you in the future. Thank you very much.